Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 07 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 08 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 06 Dec 2023 at 16:15

Confidence: Moderate

Headline for Thursday 07 Dec 2023: Strong winds and rain through much of the day. Turning slightly milder.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 07 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Drizzle
Precipitation probability							
80%	80%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 07 Dec 2023

Weather: Strong winds and outbreaks of rain spreading to all areas into the early hours, wintry above around 500-600m to start but tending to turn to rain at all heights as the freezing level rises into the day. Patchy rain continuing on and off for much of the morning, always heaviest for southern facing slopes given the strong south-southeasterly winds. Rain becoming more persistent and heavy during the afternoon, before slowly clearing west into the evening to leave a somewhat drier end to the day with slightly lighter winds. A Met Office Yellow warning for Rain is in force for much of the south of the region through the day, please see the Met Office website for further details and the latest updates.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20%, with the best chance of clearer spells to the lee of high ground.

Low cloud and visibility: Broken low cloud above around 300-400m for much of the day in association with the rain. Visibility generally moderate in rain, poor in early snow and locally very poor in cloud.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 07 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	48/58 SE	48/58 SE	48/59 SE	50/62 SE	52/64 SE	51/64 SE	46/58 SE	35/44 SE	35/44 S
600	35/47 SE	35/48 SE	36/49 SE	37/51 SE	38/53 SE	38/53 SE	37/52 SE	31/44 S	29/41 S
300	14/39 SE	15/39 SE	15/39 SE	16/42 SE	18/44 SE	17/45 SE	17/41 SE	13/32 S	12/31 S
Valley	13/34 SE	14/36 SE	15/36 SE	16/38 SE	18/41 SE	17/41 SE	18/38 SE	15/31 SE	14/31 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-1/-12	-1/-11	-0/-10	0/-9	1/-9	1/-8	1/-8	2/-6	2/-6
600	-0/-9	0/-8	1/-7	2/-6	2/-6	3/-5	3/-5	3/-4	3/-3
300	2/-3	2/-3	3/-2	4/-1	4/-1	5/0	5/-0	5/1	5/1
Valley	4/-0	4/0	5/1	6/2	7/2	7/3	7/2	7/3	7/4
Freezing Level*	800m	1300m	1900m	2000m	2000m	2000m	1600m	1400m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A poor weather day up on the hills, particularly when exposed to those strong south-easterly winds. Turning somewhat milder than recent times but some severe wind chill and poor visibility likely at height and appropriate equipment vital.

Forecast for Friday 08 Dec 2023

Weather: Thursday's rain clearing overnight to leave a generally drier, brighter start to Friday. Outbreaks of showery rain spreading east to all areas through the morning however, locally heavy at times, with strong southerly to south-westerly winds persisting.

Maximum wind: Southerly to south-westerly 25-30mph, gusting 35-45mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% to start, becoming 20% through the morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Patchy cloud above around 200-300m to start, this tending to lift somewhat but thicken into the day, becoming broken above 400-500m. Visibility generally good but moderate in showers and locally very poor in cloud.

Temperature: **Valleys:** 6 Celsius, becoming 8 Celsius.
At 800m: 3-4 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1400m becoming 1800m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 6 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Full report:
There's currently quite a variation of snow cover in the Lake District. Very roughly south of Dunmail Raise, and especially around Ambleside, the snow is down to valley level, whereas to the north snow cover starts at around 500 to 550m. Above these heights, although depth increases with height, actual depth encountered varies considerably from just a couple of cms on windswept ground to drifts easily able to swallow a 60cm ice axe. The snow has been, and continues to be, redistributed (today on predominantly S to SSE winds) so the deepest drifts can be found in sheltered spots and hollows and in the lee of the wind – ie north facing aspects. The deep, soft powder in such locations made for heavy going and a good work out! Conversely, at lower elevations where there has been a thaw/freeze or on popular routes where the snow has been compacted there was hard snow and ice. Microspikes (or crampons where deeper) made the going far easier – especially in descent. Visibility was superb today, making navigation relatively straight forward. This is unlikely to be the case tomorrow with forecasted snow at altitude and low cloud. This combined with the current deep snow obscuring landmarks means that excellent navigational skills will be required for anyone heading out into the high fells. At the time of writing, Cumbria is under a Met Office Yellow warning for rain on Thursday below 500m (plus snow melt) from midnight to 7pm. Walkers attempting steep or exposed routes above the snowline, such as Swirral and Striding Edges, should be experienced in winter mountaineering and equipped with crampons and ice axe. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. As described, there is currently the potential to experience near or actual whiteout conditions. Therefore a map and compass combined with competent navigational skills are essential in such conditions. Googles are recommended to lessen the sting of windblown spindrift. Temperature: minus 3.5 C Maximum wind speed 21.2 mph Wind chill: minus 12.8 C Average wind speed: 11.1 mph

Issued at: 1615 on Wed 06 Dec 2023

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